

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓  
Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

B9  
Sub C1

1. (Amended) A method for improving production of vanillin in cultured *Vanilla planifolia*, which comprises:

- a) providing a tissue culture of said *Vanilla planifolia*; and
- b) supplementing the culture with a compound selected from the group consisting of malic acid, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, citric acid, pyruvic acid, oxaloacetic acid, succinic acid, glycosylated lysozyme, and any combination thereof, in an amount effective to improve the vanillin production as compared with cultures not supplemented with the compound.

B10

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the culture is supplemented with 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde at a concentration of between about 0.1 and 5 mM.

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7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the culture is supplemented with about 1 to about 100 µg/ml of glycosylated lysozyme.

B12  
Sub C3

9. (Amended) Cultured *Vanilla planifolia* cells, produced by the method of claim 1, wherein the cultured cells produce at least twice as much vanillin as cells cultured under equivalent conditions but which were not supplemented with the compounds.

Sub  
C3  
✓

10. (Amended) The cultured *Vanilla planifolia* cells of claim 9, wherein the cultured cells produce at least ten times as much vanillin as cells cultured under equivalent conditions but which were not supplemented with the compounds.

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Please add the following new claims:

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B13  
Sub  
C4  
✓

(new)  
31. A cell culture comprising *Vanilla planifolia* cells, supplemented with elicitors of vanillin synthesis selected from the group consisting of malic acid, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, citric acid, pyruvic acid, oxaloacetic acid, succinic acid, glycosylated lysozyme, and any combination thereof.

(new)  
32. The cell culture of claim 31, wherein the supplementation is of an amount effective to increase the production of vanillin.

(new)  
33. The cell culture of claim 31, wherein the cells are embryo cells.

(new)  
34. The cell culture of claim 31, wherein the cells are root cells.

(new)  
35. A cell culture comprising *Vanilla planifolia* cells in a medium with additions for stimulating vanillin production selected from the group consisting of malic acid, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, citric acid, pyruvic acid, oxaloacetic acid, succinic acid, glycosylated lysozyme, and any combination thereof.

36. The cell culture of claim 35, wherein the additions are of an amount effective to increase the production of vanillin.

37. The cell culture of claim 35, wherein the cell culture produces at least two times as much vanillin than a cell culture under identical conditions but wherein the medium lacks the additions for stimulating vanillin production.

38. The cell culture of claim 35, wherein the cell culture produces at least ten times as much vanillin than a cell culture under identical conditions but wherein the medium lacks the additions for stimulating vanillin production.

39. The cell culture of claim 35 wherein the cells are embryo cells.

40. The cell culture of claim 35 wherein the cells are root cells.

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cancel